

morning for the dedication ceremony for the Pyramid of Remembrance Living Memorial. It was a privilege to be in the company of a group of amazing young people from Painesville Township, OH, who have shown compassion and integrity beyond their years.

The idea for the Pyramid of Remembrance Living Memorial originated in a classroom at Riverside High School in Painesville Township, OH, and was sparked by the sight of a U.S. soldier being dragged through the streets of Mogadishu, Somalia. That horrible image was seared into our Nation's consciousness, and in the classroom of Dr. Mary Porter it spurred discussion of other worthy sacrifice that is regrettably overlooked.

The students decided then—more than a decade ago—that a memorial should be erected in our Nation's Capital to honor the forgotten ones—those killed in circumstances other than declared wars, including training accidents, humanitarian efforts, peacekeeping missions and terrorist attacks. The students envisioned a large memorial, possibly near the Mall, but ran into many stumbling blocks because such memorials must honor those who have died in declared conflicts.

They could have gutted the intention and heart of their memorial to make it fit the stringent confines of law, but the entire purpose of this endeavor was to honor those whose sacrifice doesn't fit in one tidy category. They persevered.

Twice, legislation I introduced to create the memorial was passed by the House of Representatives, but never with enough time left in a congressional session for the Senate to take it up. The students have been to Washington several times in the last decade, and have testified before both the House and Senate, and the National Capital Memorial Commission. They brought with them letters of support from former President Bush, former Secretary Cohen, and others. They were patient as one Congress faded away and another began, and held out hope each time Senator VOINOVICH and I introduced legislation—this might be the time we'd get it done.

At every turn and by everyone they encountered, the students were praised. "This is a wonderful idea, but . . ."

If you hear someone say, "This is a wonderful idea, but . . ." enough times, some might be inclined to give up and chalk it up as a great idea that was never actualized. Not this group.

Last summer, a last-ditch meeting was held in my office, and this time we had the ear of the Superintendent of Arlington National Cemetery, John C. Metzler, Jr. Superintendent Metzler was candid and told the Senator and me that we couldn't build a memorial of the scale the students wanted in Arlington due to limited burial space. In fact, he told us that if the memorial before us was one-inch larger we'd need an act of Congress to approve it. He offered an alternative to accomplish the students' noble goal.

Five years ago, Arlington discontinued its program of living memorials because there were already 174 such memorials throughout the cemetery. But Superintendent Metzler graciously made an exception for the students of Riverside High School so their dream could become a reality. I want to give special thanks to Superintendent Metzler and Arlington National Cemetery Historian Tom Sherlock for their unwavering efforts on behalf of the school.

Though some might argue that the living memorial we dedicated on this glorious May morning is not as grand in scale as the students initially envisioned, it is every bit as grand in purpose. Every person who visits Arlington National Cemetery from this day forward—more than four million people a year—can take comfort knowing that this living memorial will honor not only those killed in the terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and the USS *Cole*, but also those who lost their lives in Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo and Panama; during the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut; during the failed rescue attempt of American hostages in Iran; and in the far too many deadly training accidents that occur on land, in air, and at sea, so that our forces can be ready for combat.

Throughout our land, our military bases are named for those who died so that our troops are ready for war. Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio is named for Lt. George Kelly, the first Army pilot to lose his life piloting a military aircraft on May 10, 1911. Hill Air Force Base in Texas is named for Maj. Ployer "Pete" Hill, who was killed October 30, 1935, while test flying the first B-17 at Wright Field in Dayton. Even Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in my state of Ohio is similarly named. The Wright portion comes from the Wright Brothers, of course. The Patterson is 1st. Lt. Frank S. Patterson, who died in a training accident in Dayton on June 19, 1919, while testing newly installed machine guns in his plane.

Those who are honored by this living memorial have perished in non-declared war situations. The list is long and incomplete, and the sacrifice is often not given the recognition it deserves.

Earlier this year, I attended the funeral of Sean Landrus of Thompson, OH, a father of three who died in Iraq after major combat ended. In the month of April alone, more than 136 U.S. troops died in Iraq, nearly a year after the end of declared combat. At least 13 were teenagers.

Just two weeks ago, three soldiers from Ft. Bragg died when their Black Hawk helicopter crashed during a training exercise. One planned to retire in a few months, another had just married on Valentine's Day. One commander remarked: "To lose someone on a training flight as opposed to in combat makes no difference." He is right.

We should not judge or quantify the sacrifice of those who serve for and die for their country.

This morning, I was humbled that so many attended our dedication ceremony, including Senator VOINOVICH and his wife, Janet; Superintendent Metzler; Lt. Gen. Richard A. Cody; Col. Ricky L. Rife; former Congressman Michael P. Flanagan; Col. Glenn Lackey; Lt. Col. Steve Geise; Dr. Mary Porter; and of course the nearly 60 guests from Riverside High School and Painesville Township.

I was also privileged to present the students with greetings from Secretary Anthony J. Principi of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER of the House Committee on Armed Services, and Vice President DICK CHENEY, who told the students: "The ranks of the United States military have been filled with men and women of honor who place duty and country above self-interest. Whenever a service member is killed, our country mourns its loss. We also rededicate ourselves to continuing the tasks to which they dedi-

cated their lives—to the defense of our country and to the lasting security, and peace of the world. Thank you again for establishing this fine memorial. It will always stand as a fitting tribute to those who lost their lives while in the service of our great Nation."

I am incredibly proud of the students of Riverside High School for their idea and their tenacity, and their desire to share this memorial with the Nation. Visitors to Section 55 of Arlington National Cemetery will find a beautiful Southern Magnolia tree and a red granite base with a bronze marker. They will notice that many words are engraved on the marker, but not the name of Riverside High School.

The students' gesture to make the Pyramid of Remembrance Living Memorial a gift from America's youth is incredibly selfless, thoughtful and mature. On behalf of all Americans, I thank you and honor you.

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#### HONORING MARINE LANCE CORPORAL PHILLIP E. FRANK

#### HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2004*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the ultimate sacrifice of Marine Lance Corporal Phillip E. Frank, of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. He died April 8, 2004 of gunshot wounds sustained during combat operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Corporal Frank dedicated his young life at the age of 20 to the service of our country and restoring peace. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Keri Johnson Frank; his parents, Roy and Georgette Frank; his sister Cyndi; and other family, friends and community members who mourn his loss.

Lance Cpl. Frank was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Camp Pendleton, California. He was a recipient of the National Defense Medal.

Lance Cpl. Frank was born on July 5, 1983, and grew up in Cliffwood Beach, New Jersey.

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#### ELECTIONS IN PUNJAB MAY 10— THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLAIM FREEDOM

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, India is undergoing a cycle of elections. Unlike this country, India does not hold the elections on a single day but over a period of time. I guess it's difficult to hold elections on one day when you have a billion people.

Elections in Punjab have been scheduled for May 10. Recently, the Council of Khalistan put out an open letter to the people of Punjab urging them to use these elections to bring about independence for the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

It looks like the elections will result in a hung Parliament. The militantly Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has

been leading the government, seems to have lost some ground. A coalition government will need to be formed.

That brings substantial power to the regional parties in the various states and regions of the country. These parties could well control who runs the Indian government. The Council of Khalistan called on these regional parties to band together in a "freedom bloc" to unite for freedom and self-determination for all of the minorities of South Asia.

The open letter notes that both the BJP and the rival Congress Party are dangerous to the freedom of the Sikhs and other minorities, and the regional Akali Dal is in coalition with the BJP. The Akali leaders invited the Congress Party government of Indira Gandhi to invade the Golden Temple, the seat of the Sikh religion, and they surrendered quickly when the attack came.

This letter points out these and other reasons why it is important to use these elections as a springboard to achieve freedom for Khalistan and the other nations seeking to free themselves of Indian rule.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the brutality of India's suppression of these freedom movements. They have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of other minorities. Now, according to the Tribune of Chandigarh, the Indian government is demanding that the government of Punjab pay them back for the costs accrued in suppressing the Sikhs.

This is outrageous, Mr. Speaker. As the beacon of freedom, the United States must be strong against this kind of repression. We should stop all American aid to India until it stops the repression and allows all people within its borders to enjoy their most basic human rights fully. And we should put this Congress on record as supporting self-determination for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the other people seeking freedom from India's brutal rule.

The right to self-determination is the essence of democracy, Mr. Speaker. The lack of self-determination and the repression show that India's claim to be a democracy is fake. It is time for us to take a stand on behalf of freedom for all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's open letter into the RECORD at this time.

OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION,  
April 27, 2004.

Elections in Punjab have been set for May 10. Elections under the Indian Constitution will not free the Sikh Nation. Use this opportunity, however, to elect committed, hottest Sikhs who are committed to freeing Khalistan to Parliament.

These elections will certainly result in a hung Parliament. No party is capable of putting together the national majority needed to control Parliament on its own. A coalition government will be formed. The regional parties will be very important in deciding who will control the government. This gives the regional parties and the regions they represent enormous power. We must use this power to our benefit. It is time for the regional parties to form a "freedom bloc" to work together for freedom for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the minority nations seeking their freedom from India's bru-

tal rule. We agree with L.K. Advani when he said, "When Kashmir goes, India goes." By securing freedom for any of the captive nations of South Asia, we bring about freedom for all of us. Working together in a common, unified effort will hasten that day for everyone.

Congress and the BJP are both the enemies of the Sikh Nation. They both watch out for the interests of the Hindu majority at the expense of the Sikh Nation and other minorities. The BJP has murdered Muslims in Gujarat, in Kashmir, and elsewhere and Christians in Nagaland and throughout India. They have forcibly reconverted Christians back to Hinduism. They preach Hindutva (total Hindu control of the culture and society) and openly preach that if you live in India, you must either be Hindu or be subservient to Hinduism.

The Congress Party attacked the Golden Temple, the most sacred shrine of the Sikh Nation, 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks, known as Operation Bluestar, including Sant Jamail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. The BJP congratulated Indira Gandhi on the attack and said it should have been done earlier.

These attacks accelerated the Sikh independence movement and deepened the desire for independence in the hearts of Sikhs, a fire that burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation to this day. Sant Bhindranwale said that the attack on the Golden Temple would "lay the foundation stone of Khalistan" and he was right. Late in 2003, former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh organized a seminar on Khalistan at Baba Makhana Shah Labana Hall, Sector 30, Chandigarh. This shows that the flame of freedom is still burning in the hearts of Sikhs. Sikhs can never forgive or forget the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple. It is time to take action to free our homeland.

The Badal Akalis are totally controlled by their coalition partners, the BJP. Chief Minister Captain Anarinder Singh is in bed with the Congress Party. He honored the former Chief Minister, Beant Singh, who is responsible for the mass murder of hundreds of thousands of Sildis and gave over 41,000 cash bounties to police officials for killing Sikhs. Neither will protect the interests of the Sikh Nation. They have undermined Sikh character and Sikh values. Simply by joining the Congress Party, Captain Amarinder Singh is undermining Sikh values. Badal, Tobra, and Longowal said that India would have to get to the Golden Temple by rolling tanks over their dead bodies, then quickly surrendered. The Akalis invited the Indian Army to the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and so many other committed Sikhs.

Do not support Badal or the Akalis. The Badal government was the most corrupt government in the history of Punjab. They sold jobs for a fixed fee. They came up with a new, dignified term for bribery: "fee for service." If you didn't pay the fee, you didn't get the service. Badal's wife was so experienced that she could pick up a bag of money and tell how much money was in it. Parkash Singh Badal was a disaster for Punjab and a disgrace to the Sikh Nation. Yet the Akali Dal continues to support Badal, even though he was prosecuted and jailed for his corruption. What has happened to the character of the present-day Akalis? They are defaming

the name of the pre-partition pious Akalis who suffered and sacrificed for the cause of the Khalsa Panth.

Not even a single Akali protested the unprecedented corruption of Badal. According to India-West, the Punjab Vigilance Bureau carried out raids on Badal's properties for several months and filed a charge-sheet in a local court charging Mr. Badal with siphoning off Rs. 784 million, the equivalent of \$17 million in U.S. money, during his five years as chief minister. The article says that Mr. Badal and his family hold assets of Rs. 4326 crores (nearly \$1 billion), most of which are located outside India. Half the population of India lives below the international poverty line. About 40 percent live on less than \$2 per day.

Lalit Mansingh, the outgoing Indian Ambassador to the United States, has said, "There is no India without Sikhs and no Sikhs without India." He is wrong. The Sikh Nation has survived perfectly fine without India. Before there was an India, Sikhs flourished. The Sikhs ruled Punjab as an independent country from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849. Sikhs stopped the invasion from the West, annexed Kashmir from the Afghans, and occupied Kabul for a short period.

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, during the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." He was only reiterating the Guru's blessing, "In Grief Sikkh Ko Deon Patshahi." The time to achieve our independence is now.

The opportunity these elections provide must be used to liberate our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian oppression. We must choose leaders who will work for freedom for the Sikh Nation. Remember, you get what you vote for. Always remember our heritage: Raj Kare Ga Khalsa; Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah. Freedom for Khalistan is very close. Let us take this opportunity to make it happen.

Panth Da Sewadar,  
DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
President, Council of Khalistan.

REMEMBERING DR. JAMES E.  
HAYES

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2004

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to an esteemed physician and administrator from the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, Dr. James E. Hayes, who died recently at the young age of 49 of multiple myeloma. Dr. Hayes was nationally renowned as an effective and innovative emergency room physician and administrator during his twenty-two year career.

Jim Hayes was born in Sherman, Texas, and graduated from Whitesboro High School in 1972 and Grayson County College in 1973. He received his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University in 1976, graduating summa cum laude, and received his medical degree from Southwestern Medical School 4 years later.